TO THE COURT, ALL PARTIES, AND THEIR ATTORNEYS OF RECORD:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on August 29, 2011 at 10:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard in Courtroom 10D of the United States District Court for the Central District of California (Southern Division) located at 411 West Fourth Street, Santa Ana, CA, Defendant, YOSEF TAITZ ("Moving Defendant"), will and does hereby apply pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure ("FRCP"), Rule 12(b)(6) and other applicable statutes and case law for an Order dismissing the First Amended Complaint ("FAC") of Plaintiffs, LISA LIBERI, LISA M. OSTELLA, PHILIP J. BERG, ESQUIRE, THE LAW OFFICES OF PHILIP J. BERG, and GO EXCEL GLOBAL (collectively "Plaintiffs"), because Plaintiffs have failed to state any claim against Moving Defendant for the following reasons:

- (1) Plaintiffs on May 28, 2009 dismissed Moving Defendant pursuant to the parties' *Stipulated Dismissal Without Prejudice of Defendant Yosef Taitz* and Order thereon (**'Exhibit A''** to the concurrently-filed Request for Judicial Notice). It provides that Plaintiffs must apply to the Court for leave to join Moving Defendant, and obtain such leave, before pursuing him as a Defendant in this action. Plaintiffs have violated such Order because they did not apply for, nor obtain, leave to bring Moving Defendant back into the case before naming him as a Defendant to their FAC. Accordingly, the FAC should be dismissed with prejudice as to Moving Defendant;
- (2) Plaintiff, THE LAW OFFICES OF PHILIP J. BERG ("TLOPB"), is not a business entity (corporation, partnership, etc.). Counsel for TLOPB has agreed that it is not a proper Plaintiff and that it will dismiss its claims. (See, Local Rules, Rule 7-3 correspondence attached as "Exhibits A-B" hereto.) However, as of the date of this Motion, TLOPB has not dismissed its claims. Accordingly, the FAC as brought by TLOPB should be dismissed with prejudice;

- (3) Plaintiff, GO EXCEL GLOBAL ("GEG"), is not a business entity (corporation, partnership, etc.). Counsel for GEG as stated in his July 18, 2011 correspondence ("Exhibit B" hereto) asserts that GEG was at one time an existing business entity, but admits that it no longer exists. Thus, under applicable New Jersey and consistent California law, GEG does not have legal standing to pursue its claims in the FAC and is not a proper Plaintiff. Accordingly, the FAC as brought by GEG should be dismissed with prejudice;
- (4) Plaintiffs' First Cause of Action for Invasion of Privacy under the First and Fourteenth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution, and the California Constitution, fails to state a claim against Moving Defendant;
- (5) Plaintiffs' Second Cause of Action for Public Disclosure of Private Facts Invasion of Privacy fails to state a claim against Moving Defendant;
- (6) Plaintiffs' Third Cause of Action for False Light Invasion of Privacy fails to state a claim against Moving Defendant. Further, such claim is brought by all Plaintiffs including non-existent entities TLOPB and GEG. Claims for false light invasion of privacy may only be brought by individuals and not by entities. Thus, TLOPB's and GEG's false light invasion of privacy claims, as well as the same claims by the remaining Plaintiffs, fail to state a claim against Moving Defendant;
- (7) Plaintiffs' Fifth Cause of Action for Willful Violation of the Cal. Information Privacy Act (IPA) <u>Cal. Civ. Code</u> § 1798.53 fails to state a claim against Moving Defendant;
- (8) Plaintiffs' Sixth Cause of Action for Violation of Cal. IPA, <u>Cal. Civ.</u>

 <u>Code</u> § 1798.85 fails to state a claim against Moving Defendant;
- (9) Plaintiffs' Eighth Cause of Action for Defamation Per Se, Slander and Libel Per Se fails to state a claim against Moving Defendant. Further, such claim is brought by all Plaintiffs including non-existent entities TLOPB and GEG. Claims for defamation per se may only be brought by individuals and not by entities. Thus,

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- TLOPB's and GEG's defamation per se claims, as well as the same claims by the remaining Plaintiffs, fail to state a claim against Moving Defendant;
- (10) Plaintiffs' Ninth Cause of Action for Intentional Infliction of Emotional and Mental Distress fails to state a claim against Moving Defendant. Further, such claim is brought by all Plaintiffs including non-existent entities TLOPB and GEG. Claims for infliction of emotional distress may only be brought by individuals and not by entities. Thus, emotional distress claims by TLOPB and GEG, as well as the same claims by the remaining Plaintiffs, fail to state a claim against Moving Defendant;
- (11) Plaintiffs' Fourteenth Cause of Action for Negligent Non-Compliance with the Fair Credit Reporting Act 15 U.S.C. §§ 1681b and 1681o fails to state a claim against Moving Defendant;
- (12) Plaintiffs' Seventeenth Cause of Action for Violation of the Information Practices Act (IPA) Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1798 et seq. fails to state a claim against Moving Defendant;
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- (15) Plaintiffs' Twentieth Cause of Action for Res Ipsa Loquitor Negligence fails to state a claim against Moving Defendant.

As set forth in the attached Declaration and the exhibits to it, Moving Defendant has complied with Local Rules, Rule 7-3 and has met and conferred with Plaintiffs' counsel before filing this Motion.

This Motion to Dismiss pursuant to <u>FRCP</u>, Rule 12(b)(6) will be based upon this Notice, the attached Memorandum of Points and Authorities, the concurrently-

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MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

I. <u>INTRODUCTION</u>

A. PROCEDURAL HISTORY INVOLVING DEFENDANT, YOSEF TAITZ

Moving Defendant, YOSEF TAITZ, was a party to this case when pending in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. On May 28, 2009, the Court entered the Stipulated Dismissal Without Prejudice of Defendant Yosef Taitz and Order thereon ("Exhibit A" to the concurrently-filed Request for Judicial Notice.) Its Para. 2 provides in relevant part: "Plaintiffs may apply to the Court for leave to join Defendant Yosef Taitz in this action upon satisfaction of all joinder rules and leave of Court. Leave shall be granted only upon the Court's finding that Plaintiffs have established evidence sufficient to support a cognizable claim against Yosef Taitz arising out of the allegations in the Complaint filed May 4, 2009."

Plaintiffs filed their First Amended Complaint ("FAC") on June 17, 2011. They added Moving Defendant as a Defendant over two years after he was dismissed. However, Plaintiffs have not complied with the Stipulation and Order by applying for and obtaining leave to bring Moving Defendant back into the case. For this reason alone, the FAC should be dismissed without leave to amend and with prejudice as to Moving Defendant.

B. SUMMARY OF ALELGATIONS AGAINST DEFENDANT, YOSEF TAITZ

Plaintiffs' 170-page FAC is a largely incomprehensible mishmash of confusing allegations, extensive technical explanations of how the Internet and computer technology operate, and jumbled claims for dramatic relief including requests for an award of damages of three billion dollars (FAC, 166: 1 and 7).

Plaintiffs' claims against Moving Defendant are confusing and tenuous.

Plaintiffs do not even begin to describe what Moving Defendant allegedly did or

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did not do until page 74 of the FAC ("Factual Allegations Pertaining to Defendants Oracle, Daylight CIS and Yosef Taitz"). As far as can be discerned, Plaintiffs' allegations against Moving Defendant are:

1. "Defendant Taitz through his corporation Defendant Daylight ["Daylight"] created and sells [computer] applications. Daylight CIS' Toolkits provide programming interface applications which are built into the design of Oracle. The design allows for remote applicational execution, cross site scripting, remote interface and injection attacks. It is on record with U.S. Homeland Security that Oracle was aware of these vulnerabilities for years." (FAC, ¶ 178.).

This passage is representative of the FAC's unintelligible allegations. For example, what are "interface applications," or "remote applicational execution, cross site scripting, remote interface and injection attacks?" What "vulnerabilities" are the subject of Para. 178? What does it mean (or matter) that something having to do with such "vulnerabilities" is "on record" with "U.S. Homeland Security?" The FAC is rife with such incomprehensible and irrelevant technical jargon, with no attempt by Plaintiffs to relate same to any cognizable claim for relief.

- "Defendant Taitz designed the Unix Server peripherals supplied to Oracle Corporation through their partnered company Sun Microsystems." (FAC, 75: 3-5.) This allegation is further obtuse technical jargon but appears to contend that Moving Defendant is a designer of computer equipment.
- 3. "Defendants... Yosef Taitz are engaged in providing software technologies; servers and operating systems to the Reed and Intelius Defendants... Yosef Taitz through his corporation, Daylight CIS developed and released 'Day Cart,' an application... Daylight CIS Day Cart and toolkit based architecture applications and hardware are designed by Yosef Taitz through his Corporation, Daylight CIS and his affiliates to illegally interface back to his or any designated servers all the information maintained on the databases...." (FAC, 75: 18-26, and 76: 4-10.) Although again obtuse, Plaintiffs appear to allege that Moving Defendant

- 2 ("Daylight"), is a developer and provider of computer systems to Defendants,
- REED ELSEVIER, INC. ("Reed") and INTELIUS, INC. ("Intelius"). Compounding the uncertainty of these allegations, Plaintiffs fail to allege how such systems are

5 "illegal."

4. "As a result of the design of... Daylight CIS' toolkit based architecture applications, Yosef Taitz through Daylight CIS has top user access to any computer; server; and/or database in which Oracle products are located." (FAC, ¶ 180.) This allegation is gibberish but appears to attempt to link Daylight to Oracle in some fashion..

Plaintiffs' allegations are largely unintelligible but reveal their first theory of liability against Moving Defendant: that he "through Daylight CIS" has designed computer systems which other Defendants (Reed and Intelius) have allegedly used to violate Plaintiffs' privacy rights. Plaintiffs do not allege that Moving Defendant, personally, has done anything violating their privacy rights but instead that "his corporation, Daylight CIS" has designed and provided computer systems which other Defendants have used to allegedly violate privacy rights. As discussed below, Moving Defendant, as a matter of law, cannot be liable for invasion of privacy where "his corporation, Daylight CIS" allegedly provided computer systems which others then allegedly used to invade Plaintiffs' privacy rights.

Plaintiffs' theory is akin to asserting that Microsoft Corporation would be liable for providing computer systems to another who, in turn, uses it to invade someone's privacy rights, or that a telescope manufacturer is liable for invasion of privacy when a consumer uses its products to spy on a neighbor. Because there can be no legal basis to impose liability under such scenarios, there can be no liability against Moving Defendant on Plaintiffs' first theory.

Plaintiffs allege that "Yosef Taitz through Daylight CIS shared the private information of Plaintiffs' with his wife, Orly Taitz." (FAC, 77: 1-2.) Plaintiffs then

- 1 allege that Orly Taitz used such unidentified "private information" to defame them.
- 2 | Plaintiffs do not allege that Moving Defendant, personally, defamed or published
- 3 any defamatory material about them. (FAC, 77: 2-10.) As discussed below, Moving
- 4 Defendant, as a matter of law, cannot be liable for defamation arising out his
- 5 company (Daylight) allegedly providing information to another Defendant which,
- **6** in turn, allegedly defames Plaintiffs.

II. SUMMARY OF LAW UNDER FRCP RULE 12(b)(6)

- FRCP Rule 12(b)(6) applies where there is a "failure to state a claim upon
- 9 which relief can be granted." A complaint is properly dismissed under a Rule
- 10 | 12(b)(6) motion when there is an "absence of sufficient facts alleged under a
- 11 cognizable legal theory." <u>Balistreri v. Pacifica Police Dept.</u>, 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th
- 12 Cir. 1990). On a Rule 12(b)(6) motion, the Court does not "need to accept as true
- 13 conclusory allegations ... or unreasonable inferences." <u>Transphase Sys. v. Southern</u>
- 14 Cal. Edison Co., 839 F. Supp. 711, 718 (C.D. Cal. 1993) (citing Schwarzer,
- 15 Tashima, and Wagstaffe, FEDERAL CIVIL PROCEDURE BEFORE TRIAL, § 9:221 at
- 16 page 9-41). "[M]ore than the bare assertion of legal conclusions" is necessary to
- 17 overcome a Rule 12(b)(6) motion to dismiss. Scheid v. Fanny Farmer Candy
- 18 Shops, Inc., 859 F.2d 434, 436 (6th Cir. 1988); (emphasis added.). A court need not
- 19 accept as true unreasonable inferences or conclusory legal allegations cast in the
- 20 form of factual allegations. Sprewell v. Golden State Warriors, 266 F.3d 979, 988
- 21 (9th Cir. 2001); W. Mining Council v. Watt, 643 F.2d 618, 624 (9th Cir. 1981). A
- 22 complaint must allege "enough facts to state a claim that is plausible on its face."
- 23 Graehling v. Village of Lombard, 58 F.3d 295, 297 (7th Cir. 1995); Bell Atlantic
- 24 Corp. v. Twombly, 550 U.S. 544, 570 (2007). When this standard has not been met,
- 25 the case must be dismissed. <u>Bell Atlantic Corp.</u>, *supra*.
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III. <u>LEGAL ARGUMENT</u>

A. PLAINTIFFS' FAC SHOULD BE DISMISSED AS AGAINST MOVING DEFENDANT, YOSEF TAITZ, DUE TO THEIR VIOLATION OF THE MAY 2009 STIPULATION AND ORDER DISMISSING HIM

As discussed above, Plaintiffs have violated the *Stipulated Dismissal Without Prejudice of Defendant Yosef Taitz* and Order thereon (**"Exhibit A"** to the concurrently-filed Request for Judicial Notice) by naming Moving Defendant as a party to the FAC without first, as required by that Order, applying for and obtaining leave to join Moving Defendant in this action. Under such Order, Plaintiffs must establish "*evidence sufficient to support a cognizable claim against Yosef Taitz....*" Plaintiffs have not attempted to make this showing. Accordingly, the FAC should be dismissed with prejudice as to Moving Defendant.

B. AS AGREED BY PLAINTIFFS, THE LAW OFFICES OF PHILIP J. BERG IS NOT A BUSINESS ENTITY AND IS THUS NOT A PROPER PLAINTIFF

Plaintiff, THE LAW OFFICES OF PHILIP J. BERG ("TLOPB"), is not a business entity (corporation, partnership, etc.). Relatedly, Plaintiffs do not allege the legal existence or form of entity of TLOPB in their FAC. They merely allege that it is "a law firm, with a staff, owned and operated by Plaintiff Philip J. Berg...." (FAC, 5: 21-22.) Plaintiffs' counsel has stated that TLOPB is "in essence [a] d/b/a...." (See, Local Rules, Rule 7-3 correspondence attached as "Exhibit B" hereto.)

"Use of a fictitious business name does not create a separate legal entity." Pinkerton's, Inc. v. Superior Court (1996) 49 Cal.App. 4th 1342, 1348. Therefore, "[a] civil action can be maintained only against a legal person...[and]...a nonentity is incapable of being sued. Where a suit is brought against an entity which is legally nonexistent, the proceeding is void ab initio and its invalidity can be called

Counsel for TLOPB has agreed that it is not a proper Plaintiff and that it will dismiss its claims. ("Exhibit B" correspondence.) However, as of the date of this Motion, TLOPB has not dismissed its claims. Accordingly, the FAC as brought by TLOPB should be dismissed with prejudice.

C. AS AGREED BY PLAINTIFFS, GO EXCEL GLOBAL IS NOT AN EXISTING BUSINESS ENTITY AND, THEREFORE, IS NOT A PROPER PLAINTIFF

Plaintiff, GO EXCEL GLOBAL ("GEG"), allegedly is "owned and operated by Lisa Ostella, with a business address" in North Brunswick, New Jersey. (FAC, ¶ 5.) However, Plaintiffs do not allege the legal existence or form of entity (corporation, partnership, etc.) of GEG. The lack of existence or legal standing of GEG was one subject of counsels' conferring for this Motion. Plaintiffs' counsel contends that "Go Excel Global was a legal entity when the lawsuit was filed." ("Exhibit B" correspondence; emphasis added.)

Although Moving Defendants' counsel has not been able to find evidence that GEG has *ever* existed, where Plaintiffs' counsel admits that <u>GEG no longer</u> *exists*, it is clear that GEG does not possess legal standing to prosecute its claims herein. A corporation no longer existing, or otherwise not in good standing with the governmental body with jurisdiction over it, does not have legal standing to prosecute an action. <u>Grell v. Laci Le Beau Corp.</u> (1999) 73 Cal.App.4th 1300, 1306; <u>Palm Valley Homeowners Assn., Inc. v. Design MTC</u> (2000) 85 Cal.App.4th 553, 560.

New Jersey law provides for the same result - that a corporation no longer

existing, or otherwise not in good standing, does not have legal standing to prosecute an action. <u>Higi v. Elm Tree Village</u>, 114 N.J. Super. 88, 91, 274 A.2d 845 (1971); <u>J.B. Wolfe, Inc. v. Salkind</u>, 3 N.J. 312, 70 A.2d 72 (1949).

Under applicable New Jersey and consistent California law, GEG does not have legal standing to pursue its claims in the FAC and is not a proper Plaintiff. Accordingly, the FAC as brought by GEG should be dismissed with prejudice.

D. MOVING DEFENDANT, YOSEF TAITZ, AS A MATTER OF
LAW IS NOT LIABLE FOR THE ALLEGED ACTIONS OR
INACTIONS OF DEFENDANT, DAYLIGHT CHEMICAL
INFORMATION SYSTEMS, INC.

Plaintiffs fail to allege that Moving Defendant, personally, did or failed to do anything constituting invasion of privacy or defamation. Plaintiffs' allege two theories as against Moving Defendant:

- 1. That he "through Daylight CIS" has designed computer systems which other Defendants (Reed and Intelius) have allegedly used to violate Plaintiffs' privacy rights. Plaintiffs do not allege that Moving Defendant has done anything violating their privacy rights, but instead that "his corporation, Daylight CIS" has designed and provided computer systems which other Defendants have used to allegedly violate privacy rights.
- 2. That "Yosef Taitz through Daylight CIS shared the private information of Plaintiffs' with his wife, Orly Taitz." (FAC, 77: 1-2; emphasis added.)

Thus, Plaintiffs allege that Moving Defendant did not personally engage in any actionable conduct, but instead that corporation Daylight essentially enabled other Defendants (Reed and Intelius) to allegedly invade Plaintiffs' privacy rights, and that Daylight essentially enabled Defendant Orly Taitz to allegedly defame Plaintiffs.

Although Plaintiffs fail to allege any facts establishing claims against any Defendant, they certainly have not as against Moving Defendant where he, as a

matter of law, is not liable for any alleged act or omission of corporation Daylight. A corporation is a legal entity separate and distinct from its stockholders, officers and directors, with separate and distinct liabilities and obligations. Capon v. Monopoly Game LLC (2011) 193 Cal.App.4th 344, 356; Robbins v. Blecher (1997) 52 Cal.App.4th 886, 892.

Similarly, a party's status as an officer or director of a corporation does not make him or her liable for the acts of the corporation. <u>Dos Pueblos Ranch & Imp.</u> Co. v. Ellis (1937) 8 Cal.2d 617; <u>Shafford v. Otto Sales Co., Inc.</u> (1953) 119 Cal.App.2d 849.

The essence of Plaintiffs' allegations against Moving Defendant are that he should somehow be liable for alleged acts of corporation Daylight. However, as a matter of law, Moving Defendant is not liable for the alleged acts of Daylight. Capon, *supra*; Dos Pueblos Ranch, *supra*. Moreover, Plaintiffs do not allege an alter ego claim against Moving Defendant.

E. PLAINTIFFS' FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION FAILS WHERE
THERE IS NO PERSONAL RIGHT OF ACTION UNDER THE
FIRST AND FOURTEENTH AMENDMENTS, PLAINTIFFS
HAVE FAILED TO ADEQUATELY SPECIFY WHAT, IF ANY,
REASONABLE EXPECTATION OF PRIVACY HAS BEEN
INVADED, AND THEY FAIL TO ALLEGE THAT
DEFENDANT, YOSEF TAITZ PERSONALLY VIOLATED ANY
PRIVACY RIGHTS

Under applicable California law, an invasion of privacy occurs where one intentionally intrudes, physically or otherwise, upon the solitude, seclusion, private affairs, or concerns of another, in a manner that would be highly offensive to a reasonable person. Shulman v. Group W Productions, Inc. (1998) 18 Cal.4th 200, 231. Five elements must be alleged to state a cause of action for invasion of privacy under the California Constitution: (1) that Plaintiffs had a reasonable expectation of

1	privacy in the areas allegedly intruded upon; (2) an intentional intrusion into this
2	area by the Defendant; (3) that the intrusion would be highly offensive to a
3	reasonable person; (4) Plaintiffs were harmed; and (5) that the intrusion was a
4	substantial factor in causing the harm. California Civil Jury Instructions ("CACI")
5	1800. Plaintiffs fail to allege facts establishing any of these required elements as
6	against Moving Defendant.
7	Again, Plaintiffs allege that Moving Defendant's "corporation, Daylight
8	CIS" has provided computer systems which other Defendants (Reed and Intelius)
9	have allegedly used to violate Plaintiffs' privacy rights. Plaintiffs do not allege that
10	Moving Defendant, personally, has done anything violating their privacy rights.
11	Moving Defendant cannot be liable for invasion of privacy on this alleged vicarious

The tort of invasion of privacy under California law requires that defendant personally have invaded plaintiff's privacy rights. <u>Shulman</u>, *supra*, 18 Cal.4th at 231. <u>CACI</u> 1800. There is no legal authority supporting Plaintiffs' theory of vicarious liability for invasion of privacy committed by other Defendants.

liability basis for other Defendants' alleged invasion of privacy rights.

Moreover, Plaintiffs do not even allege that Moving Defendant, personally, provided technology enabling other Defendants to allegedly invade Plaintiffs' privacy rights. Plaintiffs instead allege that Moving Defendant's "corporation, Daylight CIS" has provided such technology. Moving Defendant as a matter of law cannot be liable for alleged acts (which are themselves not actionable) of corporation Daylight. Capon, supra; Dos Pueblos Ranch, supra.

Plaintiffs have no ability to sue Moving Defendant, an individual, for invasion of privacy under the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution.

1. The U.S. Constitution Does Not Recognize the Right to Sue a Private Individual under the First or Fourteenth Amendments

Plaintiffs' claims for invasion of privacy under the First and Fourteenth

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F. PLAINTIFFS' SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION FOR PUBLIC
DISCLOSURE OF PRIVATE FACTS FAILS AS PLAINTIFFS
HAVE FAILED TO ADEQUATELY SPECIFY WHAT, IF ANY,
PRIVATE FACTS HAVE BEEN PUBLICIZED, AND HAVE
FAILED TO ADEQUATELY ALLEGE THAT THEY ARE NOT
NEWSWORTHY

A claim for public disclosure of private facts has five elements: (1) public disclosure (<u>Porten v. University of San Francisco</u> (1964) 64 Cal.App.3d 825, 828); (2) of a private fact (<u>Diaz v. Oakland Tribune, Inc.</u> (1983) 139 Cal.App. 3d 118,

As to the second through fourth elements of this claim, Plaintiffs have failed to allege what private facts (if any) have been publicly disclosed by Moving Defendant, and therefore have provided no basis to determine whether the disclosures would be offensive and objectionable to a reasonable person, or whether the disclosures are of legitimate public concern. At most, Plaintiffs allege "private" transmittal of facts by Moving Defendant's "corporation, Daylight CIS" to Defendant, Orly Taitz. (FAC, 77: 1-2.) "Private" disclosure clearly does not satisfy

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the "<u>public</u>" disclosure of facts necessary to support this cause of action. <u>Porten</u>, *supra*, 64 Cal.App.3d at 828; <u>Diaz</u>, *supra*, 139 Cal.App. 3d at 131.

As held in <u>Porten</u>, disclosure of private facts must be a *public* disclosure and not a private one. There must be, in other words, "publicity in the sense of communication to the public in general or to a large number of persons, as distinguished from one individual or a few." <u>Porten</u>, *supra*, 64 Cal.App.3d at 828. Plaintiffs fail to allege a public disclosure of private facts.

Plaintiffs fail to allege facts constituting any element of this claim. Not only are the private facts allegedly disclosed left in obscurity, but to whom they were disclosed is also not alleged. Without these two elements, it is impossible to determine whether, on its face, these alleged generic facts are highly objectionable, or if they fit a newsworthy purpose. Matters of public record are not "private" facts. Kapellas v. Kofman (1969) 1 Cal.3d 20, 38. Case information, disciplinary documents, and even "primary identifying information" and financial data may all be matters of public record.

G. PLAINTIFFS' SUPERFLUOUS THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION
FOR FALSE LIGHT - INVASION OF PRIVACY IS
INSUFFICIENT AS PLAINTIFFS FAIL TO ALLEGE THAT
MOVING DEFENDANT, YOSEF TAITZ, ACTUALLY
PUBLICIZED ANY FACTS LEADING TO THE ALLEGED
PORTRAYAL OF PLAINTIFFS IN A FALSE LIGHT

Plaintiffs' claim for false light - invasion of privacy is "essentially superfluous," and should be dismissed in its entirety, as it merely repeats Plaintiffs' Eighth Cause of Action for defamation. *See* Eisenberg v. Alameda Newspapers (1999) 74 Cal.App.4th 1359, 1385, fn. 13. A claim for false light defamation "is in substance equivalent to . . . [a] libel claim." Briscoe v. Reader's Digest Assn. (1971) 4 Cal.3d 529, 543. The allegations in the false light cause of action provide

Plaintiffs no independent source of relief, and as such, the cause of action should be dismissed in its entirety.

Plaintiffs have also failed to allege facts establishing the five elements necessary for a false light cause of action: (1) publicity in the form of a communication to the public in general (Kinsey v. Macur (1980) 107 Cal.App.3d 265, 290); (2) the disclosure must be an unfair or inaccurate depiction of the person (Fellows v. National Enquirer (1986) 42 Cal.3d 234, 242); (3) the false light in which plaintiff is placed must be highly offensive to a reasonable person. (Id. at 238); (4) "constitutional malice," if plaintiffs are public figures (Aisenson v. American Broad Co. (1990) 220 Cal.App.3d 146, 161); and (5) substantial causation of harm to plaintiffs (CACI 1802). Plaintiffs' third cause of action fails to allege that Moving Defendant, personally, made any disclosure or publication of facts regarding them to the public in general. Kinsey, supra, 107 Cal.App.3d at 290.

The FAC as against Moving Defendant is based on Plaintiffs' allegations that "his corporation, Daylight CIS" has provided technology which other Defendants have used to allegedly violate privacy rights, and that "Yosef Taitz through Daylight CIS shared the private information of Plaintiffs' with his wife, Orly Taitz." (FAC, 77: 1-2.) These allegations cannot support Plaintiffs' false light claim where, among other reasons, as against Moving Defendant there are no required allegations that he, personally, engaged in communication to the public or public disclosure of information regarding them.

Plaintiffs do not even allege that Moving Defendant, personally, did anything supporting their false light claim but instead point to Moving Defendant's "corporation, Daylight CIS" as providing technology and information used by other Defendants to harm Plaintiffs. Moving Defendant as a matter of law cannot be liable for alleged acts (which are themselves not actionable) of corporation Daylight. Capon, supra; Dos Pueblos Ranch, supra.

GEG and TLOPB are Plaintiffs on the false light cause of action. For the

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1 reasons stated above, as agreed by Plaintiffs' counsel (Philip J. Berg, Esq.), GEG no longer exists. A corporation no longer existing, or otherwise not in good standing, does not have legal standing to prosecute an action. Grell, supra, 73 Cal.App.4th at 1306; <u>Higi</u>, *supra*, 114 N.J. Super. at 91.

As agreed by Plaintiffs' counsel, TLOPB is not a business entity (corporation, partnership, etc.). Plaintiffs' counsel has stated that TLOPB is "in essence [a] d/b/a..." (See, Local Rules, Rule 7-3 correspondence attached as "Exhibit B" hereto.)

"Use of a fictitious business name does not create a separate legal entity." Pinkerton's, supra, 49 Cal.App. 4th at 1348. Accordingly, the FAC as brought by GEG and TLOPB (including its third cause of action) should be dismissed with prejudice.

Moreover, a claim for false light defamation can only be brought by a "person" (individual). Kinsey, supra, 107 Cal. App. 3d at 290. The claim addresses publications that are highly offensive to a reasonable person. Fellows, supra, 42 Cal.3d at 238. Because this type of claim cannot be brought by a business entity, it cannot be brought by GEG or TLOPB.

Η. PLAINTIFFS' FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION FOR VIOLATION OF CAL. CIV. CODE § 1798.53 (CALIFORNIA INFORMATION PRIVACY ACT) FAILS WHERE THE FAC DOES NOT **CONTAIN ALLEGATIONS THAT THE ALLEGEDLY** DISCLOSED INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED FROM A **GOVERNMENT AGENCY**

Plaintiffs' Fifth Cause of Action for Willful Violation of the California Information Privacy Act ("IPA") Cal. Civ. Code § 1798.53 fails to state a claim against Moving Defendant. Civil Code §1798.53 provides, in pertinent part: "Any person... who intentionally discloses information, not otherwise public, which they know or should reasonably know was obtained from personal information

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This is not an allegation regarding information maintained by a California state or federal agency. (Plaintiff Liberi claims to be a resident of New Mexico; FAC, ¶ 4.) Plaintiff Liberi fails to allege that her residence address was maintained by a California or federal agency. Moreover, Plaintiffs specifically allege that this information was "obtained... from her credit reports...." Plaintiffs do not allege that credit reports are maintained by a governmental agency and it is clear that such reports do not come within the IPA.

he fifth cause of action is silent as to any information regarding Plaintiff Ostella's information, including that it was obtained from any "information maintained by a state agency or from 'records' within a 'system of records'... maintained by a federal government agency...." Thus, the fifth cause of action must fail as to Plaintiff Ostella.

Moreover, there are no allegations that Moving Defendant, personally, obtained any information regarding any Plaintiff. The FAC as against Moving Defendant is based on Plaintiffs' allegations that "his corporation, Daylight CIS"

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has provided technology which other Defendants have used to allegedly obtain information. Moving Defendant as a matter of law cannot be liable for alleged acts (which are themselves not actionable) of corporation Daylight. <u>Capon</u>, *supra*; <u>Dos</u> Pueblos Ranch, supra.

- PLAINTIFFS' SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION FOR VIOLATION I. OF CAL. CIV. CODE § 1798.85 FAILS AS THERE IS NO ALLEGATION THAT MOVING DEFENDANT, YOSEF TAITZ, PUBLICLY POSTED ANY PLAINTIFFS' SOCIAL SECURITY **NUMBER**
 - Neither Plaintiff Ostella's Nor Plaintiff Liberi's Social Security 1. Numbers Have Been Published by Moving Defendant Per the FAC's Allegations

California <u>Civil Code</u> § 1798.85(a)(1) provides in pertinent part that a person may not "Publicly post or publicly display in any manner an individual's social security number. 'Publicly post' or 'publicly display' means to intentionally communicate or otherwise make available to the general public." Plaintiffs' FAC is devoid of allegation that Moving Defendant publicly posted or displayed any Plaintiffs' social security number, including Plaintiff Ostella's or Plaintiff Liberi's social security numbers.

Again, under Plaintiffs' theories of liability against Moving Defendant, based on "his corporation, Daylight CIS" providing technology which other Defendants allegedly used to obtain information, there can be no liability on the part of Moving Defendant. Therefore, the sixth cause of action, as to Moving Defendant, should be dismissed without leave to amend.

> *2*. Plaintiffs' Claim for Damages Is Misplaced as Civ. Code § 1798.84 does not apply to Civ. Code § 1798.85 Violations

Plaintiffs' alleged remedy under Section 1798.85 is mistaken and invalid. In their FAC, Plaintiffs assert that Moving Defendant, a private individual, may be

subject to a \$3,000 fine per violation of the statute per <u>Civ. Code</u> § 1798.84. (FAC, 2 ¶¶ 260 - 263.) This is incorrect, as Section 1798.84 specifically only applies to

violations of Civ. Code § 1798.83 as follows:

In addition, for a willful, intentional, or reckless violation of Section 1798.83, a customer may recover a civil penalty not to exceed three thousand dollars (\$3,000) per violation; otherwise, the customer may recover a civil penalty of up to five hundred dollars (\$500) per violation for a violation of Section 1798.83.

This language is conveniently edited out of Plaintiffs' FAC. Moreover, Plaintiffs do not assert a claim under <u>Civ. Code</u> § 1798.83.

J. PLAINTIFFS' EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION FOR DEFAMATION PER SE, SLANDER AND LIBEL PER SE FAILS DUE TO PLAINTIFFS' FAILURE TO ALLEGE THAT MOVING DEFENDANT, YOSEF TAITZ, DEFAMED PLAINTIFFS IN ANY MANNER

The essential elements of a cause of action for defamation are: (1) a false statement of fact (Schmidt v. Foundation Health (1995) 35 Cal.App.4th 1702, 1716); (2) that is published (California Civil Code §§ 45, 46); (3) of or concerning plaintiff (California Code of Civil Procedure §460; Kelly v. Johnson Publishing Co. (1958) 160 Cal.App.2d 718); (4) causing injury to plaintiff's reputation (Masson v. New Yorker Magazine, Inc., 501 U.S. 496, 510 (1991); and (5) malice (Newspapers, Inc. v. Hepps, 475 U.S. 767, 773-75 (1986)) or fault (Gertz v. Robert Welch, Inc., 418 U.S. 323, 347, 349 (1974)).

California <u>Civil Code</u> § 45 provides: "Libel is a false and unprivileged publication by writing, printing, picture, effigy, or other fixed representation to the eye, which exposes any person to hatred, contempt, ridicule, or obloquy, or which causes him to be shunned or avoided, or which has a tendency to injure him in his occupation." California <u>Civil Code</u> § 46 provides: Slander is a false and unprivileged publication, orally uttered, and also communications by radio or any mechanical or other means...."

1. Plaintiffs Fail to Allege Any "Publication" by Moving Defendant

Plaintiffs fail to allege that Moving Defendant, personally, published any defamatory statement orally or in writing with regard to any Plaintiff. The FAC as against Moving Defendant is based on Plaintiffs' allegations that "his corporation, Daylight CIS" has provided technology which other Defendants have used to allegedly violate privacy rights, and that "Yosef Taitz through Daylight CIS shared the private information of Plaintiffs' with his wife, Orly Taitz." (FAC, 77: 1-2.) These allegations cannot support Plaintiffs' defamation claim where Plaintiffs fail to allege the essential "publication" element.

2. Plaintiffs, Go Excel Global and The Law Offices of Philip J.

Berg Are Not Individuals and Cannot State Any Cause of

Action for Defamation

Any claim for relief for defamation (i.e., libel under California <u>Civil Code</u> §45, or slander under California <u>Civil Code</u> § 46) is a <u>personal</u> cause of action that does not apply to business entities. A defamation can only be brought by a "natural" person, and not an entity. Where Plaintiffs GEG and TLOPB are alleged entities, and not "natural" persons, that cannot bring any claim for defamation.

K. PLAINTIFFS' NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION FOR INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS FAILS DUE TO PLAINTIFFS' FAILURE TO ALLEGE ACTIONS BY MOVING DEFENDANT, YOSEF TAITZ, CONSTITUTING REQUIRED "OUTRAGEOUS" CONDUCT

Plaintiffs' IIED claim is based entirely upon their prior claims, meaning that the IIED claim as to Moving Defendant is completely reliant upon his alleged invasion of privacy and defamation of Plaintiffs. (FAC, ¶ 301.) As demonstrated above, where Plaintiffs fail to allege that Moving Defendant, personally, engaged in any actionable conduct, they have not stated any claim against him.

The mere allegation that a defendant has acted tortiously, moreover, is insufficient to establish a cause of action for IIED. The Court in <u>Cochran v. Cochran</u> (1998) 65 Cal.App.4th 488, 496, *citing* RESTATEMENT (SECOND) TORTS § 46 cmt. d (1965) stated:

In evaluating whether the defendant's conduct was outrageous, "it is not...enough that the defendant has acted with an intent which is tortious or even criminal, or that he has intended to inflict emotional distress, or even that his conduct has been characterized by 'malice,' or a degree of aggravation which would entitle the plaintiff to punitive damages for another tort. Liability has been found only where the conduct has been so outrageous in character, and so extreme in degree as to go beyond all possible bounds of decency, and to be regarded as atrocious, and utterly intolerable in a civilized community." [Emphasis added.]

Additionally, <u>Cochran</u>, *supra*, 65 Cal. App.4th at 497 is unequivocally clear on this subject topic, that even hostile unpleasantries are not actionable:

...feuds are often accompanied by an exchange of hostile unpleasantries which are intended to sting whoever sits at the delivery end. While the pain inflicted might be real, the tort of intentional infliction of emotional distress was never intended to remove all such barbs. To hold otherwise would needlessly congest our Courts with trials for hurts both real and imagined which are best resolved elsewhere. [Emphasis added.]

The tortious conduct alleged does not rise to the level of being "beyond all possible bounds of decency, and to be regarded as atrocious, and utterly intolerable in a civilized community" as required under the RESTATEMENT (SECOND) TORTS § 46 and California law. *See* Molko v. Holy Spirit Ass'n (1988) 46 Cal.3d 1092, 1122. Plaintiffs fail to allege that Moving Defendant committed acts constituting "outrageous" conduct. Therefore, the ninth cause of action must fail as to him.

Further, a claim for IIED is obviously a claim that may only be brought by a "natural" person and not by an entity. (An entity, of course, cannot suffer "emotional distress.") Despite this obvious requirement, Plaintiffs on the IIED claim improperly include GEG and TLOPB. Where these are alleged entities, and not "natural" persons, that cannot bring any claim for IIED.

L. PLAINTIFFS' FOURTEENTH CAUSE OF ACTION FOR NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE FAIR CREDIT REPORTING ACT (15 U.S.C. SECTIONS 1681b AND 1681o) FAILS TO STATE A CLAIM AGAINST MOVING DEFENDANT, YOSEF TAITZ

15 U.S.C. § 1681b ("Permissible purposes of consumer reports") pertains to a "consumer reporting agency" furnishing a "consumer report" about an individual. By its terms, 15 USC § 1681b regulates disclosure by "consumer reporting agencies" and no other persons; passage of the Act was prompted by concern over power of those agencies and potential for abuse presented. Federal Trade Com. v Manager, Retail Credit Co., Miami Branch Office, (1975, App DC) 515 F.2d 988. McSherry v. Capital One FSB, 236 F.R.D. 516 (W.D. Wash. 2006).

In <u>Arikat v JP Morgan Chase & Co.</u>, 430 F.Supp.2d 1013, 1020 (2006, ND Cal), consumers failed to state a claim under the FCRA because they did not allege that defendants were credit reporting agencies or users or furnishers of credit information. (See, also, <u>Nelson v. Chase Manhattan Mortgage Corp.</u>, 282 F.3d 1057, 1060 (9th Cir. 2002).

Plaintiffs' claim under 15 U.S.C. §§ 1681b as against Moving Defendant must fail where they do not allege, and (as a matter of law and logic) he cannot be, a "consumer reporting agency." An individual obviously cannot be an "agency" under the FCRA.

A "consumer report" is a report made by a "credit reporting agency" of information that could be used for one of purposes enumerated in 15 USCS § 1681a. Belshaw v Credit Bureau of Prescott, 392 F.Supp. 1356 (1975, DC Ariz). Plaintiffs' claim under 15 U.S.C. §§ 1681b as against Moving Defendant must fail where they do not allege that he obtained or furnished any "consumer report" under the FCRA.

15 U.S.C. § 16810 ("Civil liability for negligent noncompliance") does not provide any claim for relief; it merely proscribes remedies for violation of the FCRA. Before a plaintiff can be entitled to relief under 15 U.S.C. § 16810, he or she

M. PLAINTIFFS' SEVENTEENTH CAUSE OF ACTION FOR VIOLATION OF THE INFORMATION PRACTICES ACT (CALIFORNIA CIV. CODE SECTIONS 1798 ET SEQ.) FAILS TO STATE A CLAIM AGAINST MOVING DEFENDANT, YOSEF TAITZ

The Information Practices Act of 1977 (California <u>Civil Code</u> sections 1798 et seq.) requires <u>government agencies</u> to protect the privacy of personal information maintained by state agencies. Such Act does not apply to nor impose liability against individuals. For example, section 1798.3(a) provides: "The term 'personal information' means any information that is maintained by an **agency**" (Emphasis added.) <u>Civil Code</u> section 1789.3(b) provides in relevant part: "The term 'agency' means every state office, officer, department, division, bureau, board, commission, or other state agency...."

<u>Civil Code</u> section 1798.45 provides in relevant part: "An individual may bring a civil action <u>against an **agency**</u> whenever such **agency** does any of the following...." (Emphasis added.) <u>Meister v. Regents of University of California</u> (1998) 67 Cal.App.4th 437, 446. Plaintiffs fail to state a claim against Moving Defendant under California's Information Practices Act of 1977, and cannot do so, where he is not and cannot be a governmental "agency" as defined under such Act.

N. PLAINTIFFS' EIGHTEENTH CAUSE OF ACTION FOR VIOLATION OF CAL. BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE SECTIONS 17200 ET SEQ. FAILS TO STATE A CLAIM AGAINST MOVING DEFENDANT, YOSEF TAITZ

Plaintiffs' claim under California's Unfair Competition Law is based on

However, Plaintiffs fail to allege any required "unfair business practice" by Moving Defendant where, as shown above, he is not subject to the laws (Fair Credit Reporting Act, etc.) on which the eighteenth cause of action is based. Where he is not subject to such laws, he could not be required "to adopt practices in accordance with and/or to adhere to these laws...."

Only persons who have been injured in fact and have lost money or property as a result of alleged unfair competition have standing to bring actions for relief under the Unfair Competition Law. <u>Bivens v. Gallery Corp.</u> (2005) 134 Cal.App.4th 847. <u>Cohen v. Health Net of California, Inc.</u> (2005) 129 Cal.App.4th 841.

In <u>Schulz v. Neovi Data Corp.</u> (2005) 129 Cal.App.4th 1, it was held that a consumer was not entitled to pursue his action under section 17200 against a payment processing service where he had not suffered injury in fact under section 17204 or lost money or property as a result of alleged unfair competition by the processing service because he had not used their services. Analogously, a non-California resident cannot assert a claim under California's Unfair Competition Law where he or she merely asserts a claim for actions that occurred entirely outside California. <u>In re Nat'l Western Life Ins. Deferred Annuities Litig.</u>, 467 F. Supp. 2d 1071 (2006, SD Cal).

Plaintiffs have not stated a claim under California's Unfair Competition Law against Moving Defendant where they have not alleged any actual monetary injury caused by any (non-existent) "unfair business practice" by Moving Defendant. For example, Plaintiffs fail to allege an essential element of this claim that they have used the services of (i.e., were "customers" of) Moving Defendant. Thus, Plaintiffs

fail to allege the essential element of standing to bring such claim. They also fail to

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allege any unfair business practice occurring inside California affecting them. Their eighteenth cause of action must fail. 0.

PLAINTIFFS' NINETEENTH CAUSE OF ACTION FOR **NEGLIGENT INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS FAILS** TO STATE A CLAIM AGAINST MOVING DEFENDANT, YOSEF TAITZ

Plaintiffs' NIED claim against Moving Defendant is insufficient for the reasons, stated above, why their ninth cause of action for IIED is insufficient.

PLAINTIFFS' TWENTIETH CAUSE OF ACTION FOR "RES Р. IPSA LOQUITOR NEGLIGENCE" FAILS TO STATE A CLAIM AGAINST MOVING DEFENDANT, YOSEF TAITZ

Plaintiffs' "res ipsa loquitor negligence" cause of action does not state a legally cognizable claim. The doctrine of res ipsa loquitor has no application to the claims (concerning alleged invasion of privacy and defamation) herein. The doctrine applies to negligence action arising out of certain kinds of accidents that are so likely to have been caused by defendant's negligence that one may fairly say "the thing speaks for itself." The doctrine of res ipsa loquitur is an evidentiary rule determining whether circumstantial evidence of negligence is sufficient to raise a presumption of negligence regarding the accident. Cal. Evid. Code § 646. Blackwell v. Hurst (1996) 46 Cal. App. 4th 939.

Where Plaintiffs' claims have nothing to do with any accident, the doctrine of res ipsa loquitor cannot apply. Further, there simply is no cognizable claim for "res ipsa loquitor."

Plaintiffs also fail to allege any actionable duty of care on the part of Moving Defendant. They allege that he "and Daylight CIS had and owed a duty to ensure any confidential private data accessible by them was maintained secure and confidential and that no other third party had access to the protected data,

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	source of this purported duty, presumably (where this claim incorporates the allegations of all previous claims) its sources are the Fair Credit Reporting Act, California Credit Reporting Agencies Act, California Investigative Consumer Reporting Agencies Act, and California Information Practices Act. (FAC, ¶ 417.) As shown above, these laws do not apply to Moving Defendant (an individual and not a governmental or credit reporting agency). Thus, Plaintiffs fail to allege facts establishing the required element of duty as to Moving Defendant. IV. CONCLUSION For the reasons stated herein, Moving Defendant YOSEF TAITZ, respectfully			
11 12	requests that he be dismissed with	h prejudice	e pursuant to FRCP Rule 12(b)(6).	
13 14	DATED: August 1, 2011	SCH LLP	UMANN, RALLO & ROSENBERG,	
15 16		By:	/s/ - Jeffrey P. Cunningham Kim Schumann, Esq. Jeffrey P. Cunningham, Esq. Peter Cook Esq.	
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18 19			Peter Cook Esq. Attorneys for Defendant, YOSEF TAITZ	
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